Message Text

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PASS STR FOR WOLFF

EB/ITP FOR BARRACLOUGH

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: GATT ETRD

SUBJ: CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF 18

- 1. GATT DIRECTOR-GENERAL LONG HAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF 18 MEETING FOR JULY 27-28. PREPARATORY MEETING OF LOCAL REPS SCHEDULED FOR MORNING OF JULY 4.
- 2. LONG INTENDS TO PROPOSE AGENDA SIMILAR TO THAT OF PREVIOUS MEETING TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THIS IS A STANDARD ITEM FOR CG-18 MEETINGS, BUT LONG HOPES TO HAVE A FAR-RANGING DISCUSSION OF THE RECENT ANOMALIES IN TRADE AND PROTECTIONIST ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN. SUGGEST WE SUPPORT A FRANK, OPEN DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM.

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B. TRADE MEASURES FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REASONS. THIS ITEM LIKELY TO COVER WHAT WAS LEFT FROM LAST CG-18 MEETING AT WHICH TIME THE GROUP AGREED TO DEFER UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON THE BASIS OF DOCUMENTS CG.18/W/8 (ARGENTINE PAPER) AND CG.18/W/9/REV.1 (REVISED U.S. PAPER). THIS TOPIC ALSO EXPECTED TO INCLUDE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' DISSATISFACTION WITH BOP REVIEW PROCESS

INCLUDING REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT TO FULL BOP REVIEWS IF REQUESTED BY ANY MEMBER OF BOP COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH TOPIC TRADE MEASURES TAKEN FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REASONS IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE FRAMEWORK GROUP, WASHINGTON MAY WANT LOCAL REP TO PROPOSE CG-18 DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW MONETARY AGREEMENTS ON THE EXISTING TRADING SYSTEM. G-18 APPEARS TO BE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR LOOKING AT BROAD ISSUE OF IMPACT OF MANAGED-FLOAT MONETARYSYSTEM ON TRADING RULES DEALING WITH BOP.

C. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. THIS ITEM WAS SUBSUMED IN LAST CG-18 MEETING UNDER AGENDA SUBJECT, "THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM AND THE ROLE OF GATT." AT THAT MEETING THE EC WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THIS TOPIC, BUT SINCE THEN HAS INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR CG-18 DISCUSSION OF GATT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM RATHER THATN PURSUING GENERAL DISCUSSION IN FRAMEWORK GROUP. SUGGEST WE TAKE EC AT ITS WORD AND PROBE EC RECEPTIVITY TO WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF GATT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM IN CG-18. QUESTION OF IMPROVED NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES UNDER EXISTING RULES, RAISED BY CHAIRMAN OF LAST CG-18 MEETING, AND A MAJOR TOPIC AT RECENT MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, IS ALSO LIKELY TO BE RAISED UNDER THIS ITEM.

D. WORLD TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. AT LAST CG-18 AUSTRALIA SUBMITTED A PAPER AS THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT. GROUP AGREED TO RETURN TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBJECT ON BASIS OF REVISED AUSTRALIAN PAPER, WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY. EC HAS OPPOSED DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT IN CG-18 ON BASIS THAT MTN IS APPROPRIATE PLACE TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURE. WE SHOULD INDICATE CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THIS TOPIC, BUT SHOULD OTHERWISE SEEK TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN EC-AUSTRALIAN DISPUTE OVER THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THIS ISSUE FOR THE CG-18.

3. ACTION REQUIRED: INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOCAL REP MEETING JULY 4.SORENSON

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